
WIKIS, BLOGS AND FREEWARE



BRIEF HISTORY OF WIKIS

- ❑ It originated from the Hawaiian term “*wiki wiki*” which means quick.
- ❑ The first wiki software is called WikiWikiWeb developed by Howard Cunningham in 1994.
- ❑ Since its first appearance on the Internet in 1995, Wikis have inspired the growth public and private knowledge bases.
- ❑ The most widely known wiki is probably Wikipedia
- ❑ It is an online free encyclopedia founded in 2001 and it has about 4 million entries in over 200 languages.
- ❑ Which brings us to the question...?

WIKI BASICS

■ What is a Wiki?

- ❑ It is any collaborative website that visitors can view, edit, and remove content, often without the need to register.
- ❑ Its basic philosophy involves harnessing the knowledge of experts around the world to frequently update and refine their content.
- ❑ Wikis can be seen as a collaborative “journey” of a group of individuals with a shared desire that ultimately wants to explore and explain the world.
- ❑ These individuals self-correct through peer reviews.

WIKI BASICS

- How to access a wiki on the Internet?
 - Typically, only a computer with a Web Browser and an Internet connection is needed to edit the content provided by other authors.
 - However, a wiki can also be setup only for registered members of the site to minimize external irrelevant or inaccurate postings.

MAIN FEATURES OF WIKIS

■ ***Editing***

- ❑ Create/Edit Pages
- ❑ WYSIWYG

■ ***Tracking Changes***

- ❑ Change Summary
- ❑ Page History

■ ***Communication and Collaboration***

- ❑ Discussion Area
- ❑ Chat

MAIN FEATURES OF WIKIS

■ ***Technical and Security***

- ❑ Hosting
- ❑ Storage Quota
- ❑ Page Permissions
- ❑ Security
- ❑ Spam

■ ***Cost***

- ❑ *Free*
- ❑ *Purchase*

EDITING WIKIS

■ Create/Edit Pages

- ❑ A wiki page is used as a repository of content for a specific topic.
- ❑ Once a page is created, a contributor may add content for a specific topic.
- ❑ Other contributors can then add more information to the page, modify or remove existing content.

■ WYSIWYG

- ❑ This acronym means “What You See Is What You Get”.
 - ❑ This feature allows contributors to see how their entries will look like when posted as they are typing them.
 - ❑ Not all wikis support this feature, but many do.
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TRACKING CHANGES IN WIKIS

■ **Change Summary**

- ❑ It gives a visual snapshot of the changes so you can see in a glance how much has changed.
- ❑ This includes any recent changes that have been made to the page.

■ **Page History**

- ❑ It shows the 'history' or log of any page to see all changes that contributors have made on the page.
- ❑ This feature allows contributors to see who has changed what for a particular topic.
- ❑ Most wikis (if not all) support this feature.

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

■ Discussion area

- ❑ Each page has its own discussion area to keep your discussions separate from your wiki pages.
- ❑ You can setup a feed for all messages in a space in order to keep track of all discussion in your community.

■ Chat

- ❑ Internet Relay Chat is a form of synchronous (real-time) communication.
 - ❑ Its discussion areas are called channels and they permit many to many communication.
 - ❑ This feature is used in several wikis to provide online support for users.
 - ❑ However, not all wikis support this feature.
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TECHNICAL AND SECURITY

■ Hosting

- ❑ This term refers whether the user's own computer will be the wiki repository or if a remote computer will be used for this purpose.
- ❑ If it's the user's own computer, then it must be connected to the required network as much as possible if frequent viewing and editing is desired.

■ Storage Quota

- ❑ It refers to how much space is allocated to save pages and spaces for the wiki.
- ❑ The amount of space provided will depend on whether the hosting is local (user's own computer) or remote.
- ❑ Different wikis will provide different storage capacity.

TECHNICAL AND SECURITY

■ Page Permission

- This term refers to the type of operation that the wiki allows users to do on a page.
- Among permissions allowed include read, create, update, and administrator.

■ Security

- Restrict Server Access by:
 - Putting the computer with the wiki behind a firewall (restricting unwanted IP addresses)
 - Putting the wiki in a network that is not connected to another Network (i.e.. The Internet).
 - Restricting the domain name of users who want to access it to be the same as the company's.

TECHNICAL AND SECURITY

- ❑ Secure Communication Channel:
 - If using a public network (i.e. the Internet), the use of security protocols over the traditional HTTP to encrypt the transmission of user's password more difficult to decode.
- ❑ Restrict user permissions through page permissions

■ Spam

- ❑ It refers in wiki as adding external links to irrelevant websites.
- ❑ Anyone can edit a page if registration is not required.
- ❑ Therefore, spammers abuse the wiki concept and use wikis as a way to promote their own websites with the search engines.
- ❑ Besides forcing users to register, another possible solution is to report spammers or use an anti-spam bot that will search the wiki for possible spammers.

SOME ISSUES OF WIKIS

■ ***Credibility and Accuracy of Content***

- ❑ The content about a specific topic or issue may reflect the knowledge (or lack thereof) of its last contributor.
- ❑ Contributors can make mistakes regarding the content of their post, which may go unnoticed if the amount of topics and/or the amount of postings is large enough.
- ❑ Furthermore, the anonymity of these “creators of content” and the content’s fluidity makes extremely difficult, if not impossible, to verify source material, date of its creation, and assessing the content’s objectivity.
- ❑ Another concern is that even information quoted from a book, may just reflect the author’s point of view, even if they are highly respected experts.
- ❑ This may occur more in areas such as social sciences that have less rigid laws than physical sciences.

SOME ISSUES OF WIKIS

■ ***Vandalism***

- ❑ There are some people that purposely enter misleading content.
- ❑ Others, do trolling, which refers to causing disruption through messages that are inflammatory, insulting or off topic with the purpose of provoking a reaction in others.
- ❑ Without adequate protection, sites can become overwhelmed with inappropriate material faster than editors can remove it.
- ❑ As a result of this, some wikis don't allow unregistered users to edit content.
- ❑ Other wikis like Wikipedia.org still allow it, but they record the IP address of the poster. If that poster puts spam, it will permanently block his/her IP address.

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

■ *Creating a Space*

- ❑ A wikispace is a space of your own typically used for one purpose or devoted to one topic.
- ❑ Each space can hold many pages, files, and images.
 - For example, a wikispace called “math” will live at math.wikispaces.com.
- ❑ Follow these steps:
 - Click on **Make New Space**
 - Type a Space name
 - Select a **Space Visibility** (Public, Protected, Private)
 - Click **Create**

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

■ ***Creating a Page***

- ❑ Each page is a single web page which can contain content and can link to other pages.
- ❑ Each wikispace may contain many pages.
- ❑ Follow these steps:
 - Click on **New Page**
 - Type a name for your page.
 - Click **Create**

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

■ *Editing a Page*

- ❑ You can add, edit, or remove content from a page.
- ❑ Follow these steps:
 - Make sure that the **Page** tab is selected (otherwise, click it).
 - Click on **Edit Page**
 - Add, change or delete content.
 - Click **Preview** to see how it would look like before saving the changes.
 - Click **Save** button to accept the changes.

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

■ *Reverting a Page*

- ❑ Use this option if you made a mistake or you want to go to the previous version of the page.
- ❑ Follow these steps:
 - Make sure that the **History** tab is selected (otherwise, click it)
 - Select the version you would like to go back to, either by:
 - ❑ Clicking on the changes screenshot image or
 - ❑ The 'view this version' link
 - Click the **Revert to this version** link at the top of the page (just below the history tab).
 - Enter a comment and click the **Revert** button.

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

- ***Adding Pictures or files to the page***
 - ❑ A page need not to have only text but it can also have other objects such as pictures and files.
 - ❑ Follow these steps (you must be already in your own wiki page):
 - Go to the Location in the page where you desire to insert the image or file.
 - Click on the icon that says **Images and Files**.
 - If the image comes from a website...
 - ❑ Get the URL of the picture from the website
 - ❑ Click the **Load Image** button. A small version of the picture appears.
 - ❑ Double-click on the picture.

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

- If the image (or object) comes from a file...
 - ❑ Click the **Browse** button. The browse window appears.
 - ❑ Search and select the file that you want.
 - ❑ Click the **Open** button. The browse window closes.
 - ❑ Click the **Upload** button. A small version of the picture appears.
 - ❑ Double-click on the picture.

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

■ ***Adding Links to the page***

- ❑ Links can be used to connect the pages, or to obtain links to external web pages.
- ❑ Follow these steps (you must be already in your own wiki page):
 - Go to the Location in the page where you desire to insert the Link or select the text to be made a link.
 - Click on the icon that says **Add Link**. The Create Link window opens.
 - If the Link is to an external webpage...
 - ❑ Select **External Link** button.
 - ❑ Type the URL address

WORKSHOP (WIKISPACES)

- ***Adding Links to the page***

- If the Link is to another wiki page within your space...
 - Select **Wiki Link** button.
 - Select the page from the **Page Name** drop-down list or create a new page.
 - If it's a new page, give it a name in the **New Page Name** box.
- Click **OK**.

WIKISPACES EXERCISE

- ***Create and Discuss Suggested Exam Questions***
 - ❑ Create a new space called **School**.
 - ❑ In the main page, create a link called **Suggested Exam Questions** and add a proper description of the type of questions you expect from the students.
 - ❑ Create a new page called **Suggested Exam Questions** and add a description of what type of questions and how many you expect from each student. Furthermore, if a student modifies a question later (his/her or another student) he or she must post a reason in the Discussion tab.
 - ❑ Below the description, let the students type their suggested exam questions.
 - ❑ Modify students' questions as necessary and explain the reason why in the discussion section.

WIKIS RESOURCES

- Wikis have many features and not every wiki has all the features other wikis have.
- There is a website called **WikiMatrix** that can provide a quick comparison among different wikis.
 - Go to <http://www.wikimatrix.org>
 - Select the features that you are interested in and follow the directions.
- **WikiTeach** is also a good resource for teachers and it is located at <http://www.wikiteach.org>

BLOGS

- What is a BLOG?
 - It is an acronym for We**B LOG**.
 - A **blog** is a website where entries are made in journal style by users and displayed in a reverse chronological order.
 - Traditionally, users treated it as a personal online diary.
 - Today, blogs also provide news or commentary on a particular subject, such as politics, local news, sports, etc.
 - The role of blogs became increasingly mainstream, as political consultants, news services and candidates began using them as tools for outreach and opinion forming.
 - Even politicians not actively campaigning have used blogs to bond with constituents.

BLOGS BASICS

- A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to its topic.
- The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs.
- By media type, blogs can be classified as:
 - Textual (majority)
 - Photoblog (photos)
 - Sketchblog (sketches)
 - Vlog (video)
 - Podcasting (audio)
 - Linklog (links)
- How to access a blogs on the Internet?
 - To view them, just go to the respective website.
 - To post, sign in to the blog.

MAIN FEATURES OF BLOGS

■ ***Editing***

- ❑ Create Posts
- ❑ Edit Posts
- ❑ WYSIWYG
- ❑ Drafts

■ ***Communication and Collaboration***

- ❑ Discussion Area
- ❑ Comment Moderation

MAIN FEATURES OF BLOGS

■ ***Technical and Security***

- ❑ Hosting
- ❑ Storage Quota
- ❑ Post Permissions
- ❑ Security
- ❑ Spam

■ ***Cost***

- ❑ *Free*
- ❑ *Purchase*

EDITING BLOGS

■ Create/Edit Post

- ❑ A blog is used as a repository of content for a journal.
- ❑ The owner of the blog will usually be the person updating the journal.
- ❑ Other individuals may come and read the blog and post there some comments themselves.
- ❑ The owner of the blog may decide to keep, reply to, edit, or remove them.

■ WYSIWYG

- ❑ This acronym means “What You See Is What You Get”.
 - ❑ This feature allows contributors to see how their entries will look like when posted as they are typing them.
 - ❑ Many blogs (if not most) support this feature.
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COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

■ Discussion area

- ❑ Provides a permanent record of all communications.
- ❑ Authorized visitors can post their comments and the blog's owner can respond to them, fostering asynchronous correspondence.
- ❑ It is not necessarily a separate area from the journal.

■ Comment Moderation

- ❑ Sometimes, online discussion about a sensitive topic can spark flaming, profanity, etc.
- ❑ This is especially true with unregistered users.
- ❑ Therefore, the owner of the blog can inspect the comments by other users and decide whether to accept them or not before they are published to the blog.

TECHNICAL AND SECURITY

■ Hosting

- ❑ This term refers whether the user's own computer will be the blog repository or if a remote computer will be used for this purpose.
- ❑ If it's the user's computer, then it must be connected to the required network as much as possible if frequent viewing and posting is desired.

■ Storage Quota

- ❑ It refers to how much space is allocated to save for posts and blogs.
- ❑ The amount of space provided will depend on whether the hosting is local (user's own computer) or remote.
- ❑ Different blogs will provide different storage capacity.

TECHNICAL AND SECURITY

■ Post Permission

- This term refers to the type of operation that the post allows users to do on a page (viewing and/or posting).
- Among permissions allowed include view, create, update, and administrator.
 - Some blogs have a friend profile with postings not visible by anyone else.

■ Security

- Restrict Server Access by:
 - putting the computer with the blogs behind a firewall (restricting unwanted IP addresses)
 - Putting the blog in a network that is not connected to another Network (i.e. The Internet).
 - **Movable Type*** is a blog software that can be purchased and installed in the user's private network.

TECHNICAL AND SECURITY

- ❑ Secure Communication Channel:
 - If using a public network (i.e. the Internet), the use of security protocols over the traditional HTTP to encrypt the transmission of user's password more difficult to decode.
- ❑ Restrict user permissions through post permissions.
- **Spam**
 - ❑ It refers to adding external links to irrelevant websites.
 - ❑ Anyone can add or edit a post if registration is not required.
 - ❑ Therefore, spammers could abuse blogs concept and use blogs as a way to promote their own websites with the search engines.
 - ❑ Besides forcing users to register, another possible solution is to report spammers or use an anti-spam bot that will search the wiki for possible spammers.

SOME ISSUES OF BLOGS

■ ***Credibility and Accuracy of Content***

- ❑ The content about a specific topic or issue may reflect the knowledge (or lack thereof) of its last contributor.
- ❑ If a contributor don't provide a source or if they are not a clear expert on a particular subject or topic, its comment should be treated as an opinion.
- ❑ Contributors can also make mistakes regarding the content of their post, which may go unnoticed if the amount of topics and/or the amount of postings is large enough.

SOME ISSUES OF BLOGS

■ *Vandalism*

- ❑ As it occurred in wikis, it also occur in blogs; some people will purposely enter either misleading content or do some trolling.
- ❑ Without adequate protection, sites can become overwhelmed with inappropriate material faster than editors can remove it.
- ❑ As a result of this, many online blogs such as Blogger are not allowing unregistered users to post anonymous comments.

SOME ISSUES OF BLOGS

■ ***Legal Issues***

- There are two main areas of concern: confidential or proprietary information, and defamation.
 - In the US, there have been some employees with personal blogs that have been fired for discussing their employers.
 - In other countries, there have been people arrested or sued for defamation.
- However these are not the only areas that employers are looking into.
 - Ellen Simonetti, a US airline attendant (Delta), lost her job after posting photos of herself in uniform displaying more cleavage than ordinary on her blog "[The Queen of the Sky](#)".
- In short, bloggers must be careful with what they post in their diaries or journals.

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

■ Signing in

- If you already have an account with the blog...
 - Type your e-mail address
 - Type your password
 - Click **Sign in**.

■ Signing out

- Click **Sign Out**. This will take you out of the session.
- You can still view blogs, but will not be able to make a post.

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

■ ***Creating a Blog account***

□ Follow these steps:

- Go to **<http://www2.blogger.com/home>**
- Click **Create a Blog**
- Type e-mail address
- Enter and confirm the password.
- Type a Display name
- Type Word Verification
- Put a checkmark on Acceptance of Terms, after reading them.
- Click **Continue**

- ***As practice, this blog should be about the topic that you teach.***

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

■ Naming the Blog

- ❑ Type the title for the blog
- ❑ Type the URL address for the blog
 - You can check if that name is available by clicking **check availability**.
- ❑ Click **Continue**

■ Choosing a Template

- ❑ Select a Template from the list
- ❑ Click **Continue**
- ❑ Click **Start Posting**

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

■ Entering a post

- Follow these steps:
 - Enter the title for the blog
 - Type the post
 - Type a label for this post.
 - Click **Publish**.

■ Viewing a Post

- Click **View Blog**. This will display all the posts in your blog.
- Click **New Post**. It will take you back to post more content.

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

- ***Adding pictures or files to post***

- A post need not to have only text but it can also have other objects such as pictures and files.
- Follow these steps (you must be already in your own blog):
 - Go to the Location in the page where you desire to insert the image or file.
 - Click on the icon that says **Add Image**. The Upload Image window appears
 - If the image comes from a website...
 - Get the URL of the picture from the website
 - Type it on the URL textbox.

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

- If the image (or object) comes from a file...
 - ❑ Click the **Browse** button. The browse window appears.
 - ❑ Search and select the file that you want.
 - ❑ Click the **Open** button. The browse window closes.
- Select a layout for the picture (none, left, center, right).
- Select an image size (small, medium, large).
- Put a checkmark in **I accept terms of service**.
- Click the **Upload Image** button. A small version of the picture appears.

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

■ ***Saving a Post as Draft***

- ❑ Sometimes, before publishing a post, we may want to save it as a draft to continue editing later.
- ❑ Follow these steps (you must be already in your own blog):
 - Edit your comment or post as usual
 - Click on the **Save as Draft** button.
 - ❑ A list of drafts can be quickly located by clicking on the **Edit Posts** tab.
 - ❑ Putting a check mark on the draft and clicking it, resumes the editing.

WORKSHOP (BLOGGER)

■ ***Changing Settings***

- ❑ There are certain settings that can be changed to customize your blog.
- ❑ Some of these settings are:
 - Basic
 - Formatting
 - Comments
 - E-Mail
 - Permissions

BLOGGER EXERCISE

■ ***Posting Comments***

- ❑ Create a blog about a topic of interest if you haven't done so already.
 - ❑ Access one of your classmates' blog.
 - ❑ Write a well-thought comment related to that person's topic of interest as if you were a student taking the course or interested in the topic.
 - ❑ Add any relevant pictures or links to your comment.
 - ❑ Preview your post (you may ask the professor to check it before posting it).
 - ❑ Post your message.
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SOME EDUCATIONAL USES

- ***For Instructors***

- ❑ Options for instructors using blogs:
- ❑ Content-related blog as professional practice
- ❑ Networking and personal knowledge sharing
- ❑ Instructional tips for students
- ❑ Course announcements and readings
- ❑ Annotated links

SOME EDUCATIONAL USES

- ***Options for students using blogs in your courses include:***
 - ❑ Reflective or writing journals
 - ❑ Assignment submission and review
 - ❑ Dialogue for groupwork
 - ❑ E-portfolios
 - ❑ Share course-related resources

FREWARE BASICS

- What is freeware?
 - ❑ It is copyrighted software which is made available for use free of charge, for an unlimited time.
 - ❑ However, there maybe some restrictions (i.e. free for personal, non-profit, or academic use).
 - ❑ Freeware programmers want to give something useful to computer users, but they also want credit for their software and to retain control of its future development.
 - ❑ It is not uncommon for programmers to give the source code to another programmer in the event of stopping developing their products.

FREWARE BASICS

- Freeware should not be confused with free software.
- Free software refers to software that grants user freedom to study, use, change, and distribute software.
- In addition, free software is NOT proprietary, which means that its source code can be changed by any one*.

SOME FREEWARE RISKS

■ Security

- ❑ Hackers with malicious intent can poke and probe freeware for weaknesses.
- ❑ In fact, freeware that is also open source could allow said hacker types to program back doors and access methods into the code.

■ Service and Support

- ❑ If an organization is using freeware that breaks down, it can be more difficult to obtain timely service and support to fix problems.

FREeware EXAMPLES

■ ***“EclipseCrossword”***

- ❑ EclipseCrossword is crossword fast and easy to use puzzle generator.
- ❑ With a list of words and clues, EclipseCrossword does the rest very quickly.
- ❑ In seconds, it generates a crossword puzzle with just the words you want.
- ❑ EclipseCrossword has been downloaded a million times by people just like you.
- ❑ It can be downloaded from:
 - EclipseCrossword.com
 - ❑ <http://www.greenclipsesoftware.com/eclipsecrossword/download.html>

FREeware EXAMPLES

■ **“ZoomIt”**

- ❑ ZoomIt is screen zoom and annotation tool for technical presentations that include application demonstrations.
- ❑ ZoomIt runs unobtrusively in the tray and activates with customizable hotkeys to zoom in on an area of the screen, move around while zoomed, and draw on the zoomed image .
- ❑ It can be downloaded from:
 - Microsoft TechNet
 - ❑ <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/sysinternals/Miscellaneous/ZoomIt.msp>

FREEWARE EXAMPLES

- ***“The Thinking Man’s Thesaurus”***
 - ❑ This program is an ideal pop-up utility for when the right word is eluding you.
 - ❑ It includes a powerful thesaurus and a dictionary which can check the spelling of individual words as well as provide you with a list of similarly spelt words.
 - ❑ It can be downloaded from:
 - Solway’s Software Page
 - ❑ <http://www.theabsolute.net/sware/#thes>

FREWARE EXAMPLES

- ***“OpenOffice”***

- It is the free equivalent of Microsoft Office and other office suites.
- It currently support the following operating systems: Windows, Linux and Solaris.
- It can be downloaded from:
 - OpenOffice.org
 - <http://www.openoffice.org/>

FREWARE RESOURCES

- Freeware can be found in many places around the Internet.
- The following is a list of websites on the World Wide Web that contain freeware:
 - ❑ Freeware Home (<http://www.freewarehome.com>)
 - ❑ Freeware Files (<http://www.freewarefiles.com>)
 - ❑ Download.com (<http://www.download.com>)
 - ❑ Tucows.com (<http://www.tucows.com>)

FREEWARE EXERCISE

- Go to any of these freeware websites.
- Locate a freeware that is related to your favorite topic.
- Download the freeware under the folder MyDocuments\Freeware
- Install the freeware (administrative privileges only).
- Run it and try it out.